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Dated: June 21, 2004

Signature:

  
(David J. Ridders)

Docket No.: HHI-031USRCE  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Wilhelm Ardes

Application No.: 09/890,588

Art Unit: 1723

Filed: November 21, 2001

Examiner: Savage, Matthew O.

For: FLUID FILTER WITH REMOVABLE  
CENTRAL COMPONENT WITH  
ADDITIONAL RETAINER

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**

MS RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is filed herewith. In response to the Office Action dated March 19, 2004, finally rejecting claims 1 and 2, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows: